

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4578

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2016

Installation of AWS

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**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to install more Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified in this regard;
- (c) whether there is sufficient qualified personnel to handle data monitoring and reporting at all the stations; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and measures taken further to avoid and rectify malfunctioning of AWSs?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Augmentation of the observing system networks including Automatic Weather Station (AWS) network is a continuing process that shall be taken up as per the emerging needs from time to time.

(b) India Meteorological Department (IMD) has installed 706 AWS in the country so far. Out of the 706 AWSs, 129 Agro- AWS are installed at Agromet field units located at various agricultural research stations in each of agro-climatic zones (having clusters of districts in each such zone). Efforts are being made in consultation with various agencies and year mark sites for the proposed installations (National Capital Region, Eastern India and Western and Central Himalayan Region) of AWS. The list is attached in Annexure-I.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Various measures being taken up to avoid and rectify malfunctioning of AWSs. These are;

• Awarding AMC with penalty clauses for ensuring continuous availability of quality data in real time.

• Periodic calibration of the field sensors and the systems.

• Periodic maintenance of the AWS sites

• Watch & Ward mechanism for ensuring security of the sites.

Quality control, Calibration and Utilization of AWS data for forecasting and assimilation of AWS data is carried out on continuous basis for use in weather prediction models.